Mr. CHAIRMAN : This is not Zero Hour. .....(*interruptions*).

Let him speak. (*interruptions*)..... He is answering.

.....(*interruptions*) (Please allow him to answer.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Sir,..... (*interruptions*).

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : He must come and buy pulses along with us. (*interruptions*). The Parliamentary delegation will take him to the market. (*interruptions*)....

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, his question was whether there was a rise in prices of pulses in relation to the price rise of food grains in the last four decades i.e. 1950-51 to 1990-91. The answer is precise. We appreciate and we are one with you in saying that the prices have to be controlled and that is precisely why the Open General Licence in both has been allowed. We are simultaneously trying to increase the production of pulses through multifarious schemes including those of the National Pulses Development Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question House is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Production of Mint

*145. DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR :

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of Mint (Pudina) produced in the country annually;

(b) what are the various uses of mint; and

(c) what is being done to encourage its poduction ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) The annual production of 'Pudina' in the country is not known.

(b) Mint finds its main usage in the pharmaceutical, food flavour, cosmetics, beverages and allied industries.

(c) The Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for intensifying research and development activities in selected Medicinal & Aromatic Plants including mint. Several improved varieties have been dveloped, in different species of mint and production technology standardised. Financial support is provided to State/UT Governments for production and distribution of quality planting material and for setting up of distillation units under the above scheme.

Erosion in West Bengal

*146. SHRI MD. SALIM :

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an All Party Delegation from West Bengal submitted a memorandum to the Central Government in the year 1992 regarding erosion in West Bengal and

(b) if so, the nature of action taken on the memorandum ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation headed by Minister for Irrigation and Waterways, Government of West Bengal met the Union Minister for Water Resources on 8th September, 1992 and submitted an Action Plan listing out the erosion protection works in the Ganga/Padma and Bhagirathi/Hooghly river system costing about Rs. 356 crores.

(b) Investigation, planning and execution of anti-erosion schemes are undertaken by the State Governments out of their own Plan funds for flood control sector and in accordance with their own priorities. The Centre renders assistance in works that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. The West Bengal Government has been requested to prepare detailed individual schemes based upon detailed ground surveys and investigations. Based on the proposals received from Government of West Bengal, an amount of Rs. 1 crore has been released to Government of West Bengal during 1993-94 for undertaking anti-erosion works in Nabadwip-Mayapur area.